

37261

**MEMO**NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TO Region Files THROUGH: Joseph A. Miller, Assistant Chief, Region IV  
 FROM Gregory Cunningham, Region IV <sup>G.C.</sup> DATE SEP 17 1981  
 SUBJECT Inspection of Asbestos Dump, TIFA Limited of Passaic Township, Morris County

On May 11, 1981 the writer conducted an investigation to determine if an abandoned asbestos dump at TIFA Limited, located in Passaic Township, Morris County, is contaminating the Passaic River. The writer collected water samples which the New Jersey Department of Health analyzed for asbestos (the results of this sampling are attached). The attached memorandum dated June 2, 1981 described the inspection, and illustrates the location of sample collection. The results of the samples are inconclusive because the Health Laboratory is not equipped to properly analyze water samples for asbestos. The report indicated that two types of analyses were conducted on the samples. One method used x-ray while the other method used a polarized light microscope (PLM) for the analyses. The results listed on the attached reports under serpentine x-ray means that serpentine minerals were detected in the water samples, but the analyst could not distinguish between asbestos and other members of the serpentine family of minerals. The "no results" under the PLM analysis means that this technique could not detect any asbestos in these samples. Asbestos could be present in the sample but the Department of Health cannot detect the asbestos using this technique until the particle sizes are several microns in length. Although these results are inconclusive the analyses do suggest that the dump might be polluting the Passaic River.

The Division of Hazardous Management (DHM) are the case coordinators and the writer informed Mr. Thomas Allen of DHM of the results on August 31, 1981. The writer suggested that the Department resample for asbestos during a rainstorm but the Department should use a laboratory capable of analyzing water samples for asbestos. The writer expressed a willingness to conduct another sampling investigation provided that DHM can arrange for a private laboratory to analyze the samples—the Division of Water Resources has no funding for such laboratory analyses. Mr. Allen said that he would contact the writer about any future sampling.

cc: Joseph M. Mikulka, Chief, Region IV  
 Thomas Allen, Division of Hazardous Management  
 Gary Allen, Division of Hazardous Management  
 Vincent Krisak, Division of Hazardous Management  
 David Reger, DAG  
 Keith Onsdorff, Office of Enforcement

bcc: Central File, National Gypsum, Millington NPDES Permit  
 Region IV File THROUGH: Joseph A. Miller, & Joseph M. Mikulka  
 Gregory Cunningham

ASB 002 0166